The Service of Dedication
Westbourne Baptist Church
Calgary Alberta

Sunday, September 14, 1975
2:30 p.m.

Pastor
William T. Adkins

Associate Pastor
Harry W. Edwards

Member of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada
ORGAN PRELUDE

INVOCATION

HYMN “TO GOD BE THE GLORY”

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 84

VOCAL SOLO

PRESENTATION OF KEY

DEDICATION RESPONSE

Longing for the increase of His Kingdom in the hearts of men everywhere: providing for our unending need to continue steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers; desiring to offer to a growing community a House of Prayer that all who enter may find God “in the beauty of holiness”; we have builded this church and are now come for its dedication.

PASTOR: For the proclamation of the Good News to all who enter these portals:

PEOPLE: We dedicate this Thy House, O God.

PASTOR: For those restless, weary souls who may find their peace and rest as they rise toward God in the singing of hymns, in prayer and meditation, even as the great towers rise to catch the first ray of dawn with its peace and quiet:

PEOPLE: We dedicate this house of prayer to an ever listening God.

PASTOR: Toward the earnest search for Truth wherever found in the secrets of God’s good earth, and above all, that Truth revealed in Holy Writ which puts Eternity in our hearts, and binds those who seek in a fruitful fellowship of life and work by His power that worketh in us;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this Temple to Him who is the source of Truth.

PASTOR: For the stranger who enters here and is caught up by the spirit of heart warming love within these walls and becomes one with the company of believers in worship as hearts are blended in praise and thanksgiving;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this Haven our Father.

PASTOR: For little children who will be committed to the loving care of the Heavenly Father, and their parents who seek to know the highest affection, the noblest discipline and the purest religion through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Saviour;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this blessed Church Home.

PASTOR: That those who mourn may receive hope and light and be comforted while walking through the dark valleys of life;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this Dwelling.

PASTOR: For those desiring God’s companionship at the outset of their wedded life, and come to this Holy place to exchange their solemn vows in His presence;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this House to Him who blesseth the marriage at Cana.

PASTOR: For those who come to participate in the ordinance of Baptism, whereby they obey Christ’s command and set forth their identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection, and rise to walk in newness of life;

PEOPLE: We dedicate this place of remembrance.

UNISON: With grateful hearts and joyous spirits we lift our voices to give to Thee this work of our hands, this dream of our hearts. Grant to us who will serve and worship here the height and breadth, the grandeur and strength epitomized in this Temple which we dedicate to Thee. Sanctify, O God, both our coming in and going out. Enrich our lives through worship, and deepen in us our discipleship through service. Quicken in us the spirit of courage and confidence that we may go forth from here to fashion things worthy of your blessing from all the experiences of each day.

PASTOR: For the sacred moments of Communion when the children of God, in repentance and humility, observe the Lord’s Supper wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and wine, which symbolize the Lord’s body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

PEOPLE: We dedicate this place of life commitment.

UNISON: With grateful hearts and joyous spirits we lift our voices to give to Thee this work of our hands, this dream of our hearts. Grant to us who will serve and worship here the height and breadth, the grandeur and strength epitomized in this Temple which we dedicate to Thee. Sanctify, O God, both our coming in and going out. Enrich our lives through worship, and deepen in us our discipleship through service. Quicken in us the spirit of courage and confidence that we may go forth from here to fashion things worthy of your blessing from all the experiences of each day.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

VOCAL SOLO

WORDS OF GREETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING

VOCAL SOLO

MESSAGE

HYMN “THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mrs. Barbara Swanson, Mrs. Eunice Welsh

Pastor William Adkins

Number 127

Pastor Harry Edwards

Mr. Henry Dyck

Mr. R.I.A. McDougall

Pastor Gerald Meller

Mr. Henry Dyck

Pastor Robert Holmes

Number 336

Pastor Gordon Lean

Mrs. Barbara Swanson, Mrs. Eunice Welsh
Westbourne Baptist Church

1905 - 1975

During 1905 the congregation of First Baptist Church in Calgary built a mission church at 13th Avenue and 2nd Street E. About this time Rev. John Clifford of London, England, ministered to the congregation in Calgary and upon his return to London conveyed to his people the need for expansion, as well as the intention of the members of First Baptist Church to reach into the different areas of the city with the Gospel. The result was a gift of money designated for the mission church already erected. With no specific name chosen as yet, the members of this group decided to adopt the name of their benefactors, so Westbourne Baptist Church it became.

Later the building was moved to 13th Avenue and 4th Street E., where the congregation continued to minister to the people in the area under the direction of different pastors.

About 1921 this group, under the leadership of the late William Aberhart, became independent of what was then known as “The Old Convention”. Following this, the church was incorporated in 1923. During the following years the work continued to progress.

Perhaps one of the most fruitful, and certainly the most far-reaching, of Mr. Aberhart’s ministries was his radio ministry. Each Sunday afternoon a service was held in the Palace Theater, with the Gospel reaching into the homes and hearts of many who, because of distance and lack of suitable transportation, were deprived of the privilege of church attendance. Roads in the ‘twenties and ‘thirties made travel prohibitive to many, especially during the winter. An oft-repeated phrase of Mr. Aberhart’s as he sought to emphasize the truth of the message being proclaimed was: “Don’t take my word for it, take your Bible and read it for yourself”. Many wrote in to say: “We have done just that. We have seen our need and God’s provision. Now we rejoice in our new life in Christ Jesus”. Much of Mr. Aberhart’s ministry was of a prophetic nature and a blessing to many.

The Radio Sunday School was a channel used to reach the boys and girls throughout the province. This too proved to be a source of blessing. Lessons were sent out to those who wished to join the Radio Sunday School. After completing the lessons, the pupil returned the answers to the Radio Sunday School superintendent who distributed them to members chosen to mark them and return them to the pupil. As a result of these studies of the Bible boys and girls accepted Christ and many followed the Lord into the waters of baptism in Calgary.

The Prophetic Bible Institute was erected in 1927 on 8th Avenue W. In October of that year the members of Westbourne decided to move to this new location. This meant that the children being ministered to would be without a Sunday School, since there was no other fundamental church in the area. However, it would seem that the Lord had these children in mind, for in the Spring of 1929 several of the church members felt they should return to the former location. This move was made, supplies for the pulpit ministry were obtained, and gradually the work became re-established with an increase in church membership, and Sunday School attendance reaching close to the three hundred mark during the following months.

Pastor Morley R. Hall came to Westbourne in February of 1930 to commence what proved to be a most fruitful ministry. The Regular Baptist Missionary Fellowship of Alberta was formed under his leadership. During the summer months Pastor Hall along with a number of the church members held meetings at Crossfield each Friday evening. Many of those in attendance professed faith in Christ as Saviour and expressed their desire to have an evangelical work established in the town. This was done. As well, a group of believers at Benalto expressed the same desire. A church had already been established in Edmonton known as Norwood Baptist (later changed to Fellowship Baptist because of change of location). Pastor Howard Phillips pioneered the work at Drumheller. These five churches became the basis of the Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches in Alberta.

Again, the radio ministry proved fruitful as each Sunday evening the Gospel message went out from Westbourne Church into homes and hearts of many through the program “The Back Home Gospel Hour”. Many accepted Christ through this ministry and several became active members of the church.

The need for a Baptist Bible college was felt by many. Under the direction of Pastor Hall and Rev. George Dawe this too became a reality, with students attending from British Columbia, other areas of Alberta and locally. Many of the graduates served the Lord in pastorates while others were called to service in foreign lands. Because of conscription during the Second World War, the college ceased to function.

Pastor Hall ministered to the congregation at Westbourne for almost fourteen years, when he felt called of the Lord to once again serve in a pioneer work in the East.

Pastor J.B. Cunningham came to the church in 1944. His ministry extended over a period of fourteen years, during which several new members were added to the congregation. He was instrumental in the building of the Killarney work.

Several Westbourne families who lived in the Killarney area joined forces to form the nucleus of Killarney Baptist Church. Rev. W.C. Tompkins served the Lord as pastor of this church for nearly thirteen years.

Cambrian Heights Southern Baptist Church was established under the direction of Pastor Cunningham when again a number of Westbourne families left to assist in this new endeavour.
Rev. Fred Meyer ministered as pastor to the Westbourne congregation from 1959 to 1966. With two groups of the younger couples having left to assist in other works, the prospect for the future of Westbourne did not look particularly encouraging. However, Pastor Meyer accepted the challenge and he and the remaining membership carried on. His ministry was profitable as he faithfully preached the Word of God. During this time a visitation program in the district was begun on Wednesday evenings when we learned that the New Canadian population had increased considerably. Although they needed the Gospel, as a church we were unable to meet this need sufficiently because of the language barrier.

Following a survey taken of the Thorncliffe area of Calgary where there was no evangelical work, Pastor Meyer and the church members, after much prayer, accepted the challenge presented to them by the Fellowship to go into this well-populated area. Sunday School and church services commenced in the community hall on April 4, 1965, with provision having been made for those left in the former location in south-east Calgary. Progress was slow, but gradually we were able to reach into homes in the district and attendance at Sunday School and church services increased. The need for a permanent church building began to be felt. Pastor Meyer and his family left for the East during 1966.

Rev. W.T. Adkins ministered to the Westbourne congregation during the summer of 1967, and then accepted a permanent call, arriving in Calgary with his family in September of that year. With growing interest in Sunday School and church services being evident, the members became increasingly aware that a community hall did not provide suitable accommodations for the establishing of a church. The former church building at 13th Avenue and 4th Street S.E. was sold, and with the proceeds property was purchased on 64th Avenue N.W. This proved to be inadequate due to lack of sufficient parking space. Property was available further west on 64th Avenue, but was more than was required for our immediate needs and the price was prohibitive. After much prayer, it was decided to purchase this property. A pre-fabricated building was acquired that not only was suitable for church services but could accommodate pre-school classes as well.

Prior to this, the need for accommodations for Senior Citizens in close proximity to a church had come to the attention of the Pastor and Deacons of Westbourne, and the construction of such a building by Westbourne seemed possible. After a great deal of investigation on the part of the Pastor, many consultations with government officials, and much prayer to overcome many seemingly insurmountable obstacles, it appeared as though the Senior Citizens’ Residence would be a reality. The residents have moved into their self-contained suites, and for many it means a church home next door where they can attend services regularly.

October 1974 saw the beginning of permanent church facilities. The building was sufficiently completed by March 30th of this year and we held our first service on Easter Sunday. The church is attached to Westbourne Place to allow the Senior Citizens to walk from their own building to church without going outside. We feel this is a definite asset to all concerned.

As a church family, we are very grateful to the Lord for all He has done for us over the years. Our prayer is that we may be faithful to Him in our service as we await His return.

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness”.

Psalms 48:1